Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Rules, 1995 for providing arms licenses to the victims of atrocities.

(c) Reservation in services including Police and Central Para Military Forces is already being provided to SCs and STs as per existing guidelines.

Vacant Government Land to SC/ST landless families

2474. SHRI VEN'BLE DHAMMAVIRIYO: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government initiated action to distribute vacant Government land to the landless families of SCs/ STs during 1991-92, as recommended by Dr. Ambedkar Birth Centenary Celebrations Committee; and

(b) if so, the total land distributed to the SCs/STs in pursuance of the said recommendation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Distribution of land (cumulative) to SCs and STs in accordance with the implementation of Land Ceiling Laws for the quarter ended September, 2000, as reported by the Ministry of Rural Development is as under:

	Area in acres	No. of beneficiaries
SC	17.48 lakhs	19.78 lakhs
ST	7.73 lakhs	8.15 lakhs

Implementation of Persons with Disabilities Act, 1995

2475. SHRI R. MARGABANDU: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the concerns expressed by various High Courts and Supreme Court on implementation of the

Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunity, Protection of Rights and Full Participation) Act, 1995;

(b) how many cases are pending before High Courts and Supreme Court against Government and other State Governments on implementation of the said Act;

(c) the details thereof, High Court-wise; and

(d) the steps taken by Government to implement the said Act in letter and spirit towards the welfare, equal opportunities, employment, education, accessibility for the disabled?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) In the order passed on 5.1.2001 in W.P. No. 31/2000 (Amita Vs. Union of India & Ors.), regarding revision of the list of identified posts for persons with disabilities, the Hon'ble Supreme Court had *inter-alia* expressed concern and directed that within two months, the Sub-committees would submit their report and within three months, the Expert Committee would furnish the revised list to the Government. As per the direction of the Hon'ble Supreme Court, the Expert Committee has now submitted its report to the Government.

(b) and (c) As per information available, fourteen cases are filed before High Courts and Supreme Court for implementation of various provisions of the Act. Details of cases filed in Hon'ble High Courts are given below:

High Court of Kerala	1
High Court of Karnataka	2
Allahabad High Court	1
Bombay High Court	3
Delhi High Court	4

(d) For ensuring implementation of provisions of the Act, appropriate governments including the related Central Ministries/ Departments have taken various steps in that regard. There are various on-going schemes/programmes of this Ministry for the

welfare of the persons with disabilities. There are six National Institutes/Appex level Institutions set up in each major area of disability which, work towards manpower development through long term and short term training programmes, provide services including socio-economic rehabilitation services, reaching services to the un-reached through out-reach activities and research and development. The Artificial Limbs Manufacturing Corporation of India (ALIMCO), a Government company under the aegis of this Ministry manufactures artificial limbs and accessories and promotes the availability, supply and distribution, at reasonable costs of artificial limbs and accessories to the persons with disabilities. To support entrepreneurial activity by the persons with disabilities, the National handicapped Finance & Development Corporation (NHFDC) provides self-employment and income generating activities to persons with disabilities for their economic rehabilitation. Two schemes are also being implemented for providing support to non-government organizations (NGOs) working for various programmes for rehabilitation of persons with disabilities.

With a view to expand rehabilitation services for the un-reached disabled population in the country at their door steps by decentralizing rehabilitation services and to create an infrastructure of outreach extension centres in the disabilities sector for serving the persons with disabilities, the Government have taken the following new initiatives specifically for wider coverage and holistic rehabilitation of persons with disabilities.

Over hundred districts have been identified for providing comprehensive rehabilitation services at the doorsteps of persons with disabilities. A scheme for setting up of Composite Regional Centres (CRCs), for persons with disabilities has been approved for providing rehabilitation services for different kinds of disabilities and for creating infrastructure for training and manpower development. A scheme for setting up of four Regional Rehabilitation Centres (RRCs) for persons with spinal injuries and orthopaedic disabilities has also been approved as a Centrally Sponsored Scheme with Centre and State share on 90 : 10 basis for strengthening rehabilitation services in different parts of the country. Besides, a four tier-scheme

namely, National Programme for Rehabilitation of Persons with Disabilities has been approved in the State sector with Central funding for creating infrastructure at State/District/Block and Gram Panchayat level for providing comprehensive rehabilitation services to the disabled. A scheme has also been approved for setting up of four Auxiliary Production Centres of Artificial Limb Manufacturing Corporation of India (ALIMCO) to expand the production capacity and for easy availability of quality aids and appliances. National Trust for Welfare of Persons with Austism, Cerebral Palsy, Mental Retardation And Multiple Disabilities has been set up for welfare of persons with Autism, Cerebral Palsy, Mental Retardation and Multiple Disabilities.

Low Utilisation of Funds by the Ministry

2476. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the utilization of funds in her Ministry was very low;

(b) if so, the details of the budgetary allocations and utilization during the last three years;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the performance of minorities and backward classes divisions are still dismal with the utilization being less than 12 per cent;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) what is the percentage of utilization in the last three financial years under various divisions viz. minority, backward etc., State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) to (d) No, Sir.

(e) Funds are not allocated State-wise but for each sector and schemes therein for the country as a whole. A statement is annexed.